

seen massive floods throughout Texas and in the Midwest as well, particularly in Kansas and Missouri. While all these events are all uniquely tragic, it is my hope that the devastation experienced in Fort Collins, Colorado 10 years ago can serve as an example to the many other communities across the country that are not as far removed from their storms: that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and as insurmountable as a natural disaster may seem, life will and does go on.●

#### IN MEMORY OF MATT BURTON AND SCOTT DESMOND

● Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of two courageous firefighters, captain Matt Burton of Concord, CA and fire engineer Scott Desmond of Brentwood, CA. Captain Burton and Fire Engineer Desmond were heroes who died in the line of duty in San Pablo, CA on July 21, 2007. Captain Burton was 34 and Fire Engineer Desmond was 37.

Both men were dedicated firefighters who served in the Contra Costa County Fire Department for more than 10 years. They were killed while battling a residential fire in a neighborhood outside of San Pablo. The two residents of the home, Delbert and Gayle Moore, were also killed in the blaze.

Captain Burton and Fire Engineer Desmond are remembered by friends and colleagues as cheerful and full of life as well as seriously dedicated to their profession. The men served the community with enthusiasm and a commitment to protecting the residents of Contra Costa County.

Captain Matt Burton and Fire Engineer Scott Desmond risked their lives every day to make Contra Costa County safer. We will always be grateful for their brave service to their community and the State of California. Our hearts go out to their families, friends, and colleagues who struggle with their loss.

Captain Burton is survived by his wife, Chantel, and his two children, Megan and Joshua Matthew. Fire Engineer Desmond is survived by his wife Carolyn and his 17-month-old son Tyler.●

#### 50TH ANNUAL BAT FLIGHT CELEBRATION

● Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I would like to honor and give special attention to the 50th annual Bat Flight Celebration Breakfast, at New Mexico's beautiful Carlsbad Caverns. Every evening over 300,000 Mexican free-tail bats exit the caves to feed, only to return in the early morning hours. It is in these early morning hours, once a year, that visitors gather to observe the return of these thousands of bats to their homes inside these incredible caves. On Saturday July 28, 2007, for the 50th time, over 600 visitors gathered and enjoyed a New Mexican break-

fast while witnessing this magnificent in-flight return to the cave.

Created by inland sea between 250 and 280 million years ago, the limestone caves of Carlsbad were declared a national monument in 1923, and the surrounding area was made a national park in 1930, in order to preserve its unique beauty and geology. Carlsbad Caverns National Park has more than 100 known caves and covers over 46,000 acres, with approximately 33,000 acres designated as wilderness. The park's most prominent feature is the cavern itself, which contains one of the world's largest underground chambers and countless spectacular geological formations, many of which are easily accessible along a 3-mile paved underground trail.

The next time you happen to be in New Mexico, I encourage you to come visit and take some time to enjoy all New Mexico has to offer. From the beautiful rock formations, the stalagmites and stalactites, the wildlife, the culture and the history—the unique caverns near Carlsbad, NM, have it all. New Mexico is a great place, and the Carlsbad Caverns help make it so. To all, past and present, who have worked hard to preserve Carlsbad Caverns and showcase the annual bat flight celebration, I extend a heartfelt thank you.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3093. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the act (H.R. 1) to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, was signed on today, July 30, 2007, by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

S. 1868. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2011. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2011. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3093. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2703. A communication from the Acting Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's decision to convert support functions currently performed by military personnel at Fleet Composite Squadron Six in Norfolk, Virginia, to a contractor; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2704. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Regulations Concerning Section 403(b) Tax-Sheltered Annuity Contracts" ((RIN1545-BB64)(TD 9340)) received on July 25, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2705. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, the report of a bill relative to the shipwrecked vessel RMS Titanic; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2706. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services,